



CALTRANS NEWS RELEASE

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Progress Accelerating on U.S. Highway 50 Median Project

Sacramento – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is offering some good news to residents who live near the U.S. Highway 50 Median Project in East Sacramento. The \$30 million project to upgrade the center divide from a metal barrier to a concrete barrier is moving along faster than predicted and will be completed well ahead of schedule in the area of Watt Avenue.

Late night noise and vibrations have been the challenges. Caltrans Resident Engineer Bob Ericksen says these issues have been unavoidable because of the size of the project. “Each night 500 truck loads of road material need to be delivered to the site,” Ericksen says. “To accommodate those trucks during the day would require multiple lane closures and daytime commutes would be severely affected.”

The road material is known as aggregate base, which must be compacted using a machine known as a vibratory roller. Each night the roller must compact more than 10,000 tons of the base material in preparation for the pavement. “It’s like we’re building a battleship every night,” says Ericksen.

Realizing the need to complete the job, prime contractor DeSilva Gates has advanced its work schedule. Originally this section of U.S. 50 near Watt Avenue was set to be completed in August. Now the base material will be in place by mid-June. A two-week interlude will then take place with the paving project beginning in early July. Once this section is complete, the construction team will move west on U.S. 50 toward Yolo County. The entire 13-mile project is set for completion in 2010.

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